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DIVISION OF
OIL GAS & MINING

Coal Program

Moab District
P.O. Box 970
Moab, Utah 84532

ACT/015/019 #2
Copy Joe, PAM, (U-065) 3480
Joe, Susan

JUL 26 1991

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
Certified No. 0525

Mr. Scott M. Child
PacifiCorp Electric Operations
Fuel Resources Department
324 South State Street
P. O. Box 26128
Salt Lake City, Utah 84126-0128

Dear Mr. Child:

Notice of Noncompliance
Order to Replug Drill Hole TMTN-7

On July 23, 1991, Tom Rasmussen of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) witnessed the plugging of drill hole TMTN-7 located at T. 17 S., R. 6 E., Section 15. This inspection revealed that PacifiCorp was in noncompliance for failure to follow proper plugging procedures.

The information obtained at the site indicates that the subject hole was drilled to a depth of 1960 feet. After the hole was completed, approximately 235 bags of cement were mixed with water, in an inconsistent manner, and pumped through tubing into the hole. This cement mixture never reached the top of the hole and simple volumetric calculations indicate that the amount applied was substantially deficient to reach the surface. As an attempt to plug the top of the hole, empty cement bags and plastic covers from pallets were tamped into the surface casing for a distance of about 20 feet and filled with a cement slurry.

Incomplete plugging of the hole is a violation of stipulation number 4 of the approved exploration plan. This stipulation states that upon completion of down-hole procedures, all drill holes shall be properly sealed by emplacing cement through tubing from the bottom of the hole to the collar. There is also a clear violation of the regulations of 43 CFR 3484.1(a)(3). Which requires a suitable plugging material as a drill hole cap and exploration activity is managed to prevent water pollution and mixing of ground and surface waters and ensure the safety of people, livestock, and wildlife. The trash used by PacifiCorp in the cap is a potential source of pollutants which can deteriorate and ultimately cause surface collapse of the hole. In addition, our experience has shown that leaving a void in an abandoned drill column invites weathering and disintegration of the casing which will eventually allow migration of ground and surface water.

To satisfy this noncompliance, PacifiCorp must remove the substandard drill hole cap and fill the remainder of the hole with cement through a tube from the bottom to the surface by August 3, 1991. Furthermore, the action taken by PacifiCorp on this hole has raised serious concern about the plugging adequacy of the 6 holes drilled during 1990 under another exploration license. Therefore, within 5 days, PacifiCorp must also arrange a meeting with the BLM to determine what additional action is necessary to ensure the proper plugging of these other holes. Failure to comply with this order will result in the cessation of further exploration operations, cancellation of the license, and the initiation of bond forfeiture.

Please contact Gary Johnson in the Price Coal Office at (801) 637-4584 regarding any aspect of this noncompliance.

Sincerely yours,

/S/ WILLIAM C. STRINGER

Assistant District Manager
Mineral Resources

cc:

U-065c

U-921

Manti-LaSal National Forest

599 West Price Drive

Price, Utah 84501

Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

355 W North Temple

3 Triad Center, Suite 350

Salt Lake City, Utah 84180

BNorthrup:pp:07/26/91 WP51:PC.NON

DECISION MEMO

PacifiCorp Electric Operations
Coal Exploration License UTU-67727

Manti-La Sal National Forest
Price, Utah

I have decided to consent to issuance of coal exploration license UTU-67727 (see map, Attachment 1) to PacifiCorp Electric Operations for drilling two coal exploration holes. All holes will be located on the Ferron Ranger District of the Manti-La Sal National Forest, and will be used to determine coal quality and quantity.

This type of coal exploratory drilling is a routine practice on the Wasatch Plateau. Many holes have been drilled on the Ferron Ranger District in the past, with no resource damage, and the sites have been successfully rehabilitated. The proposed action falls within categorical exclusion category 5 (mineral and energy activities of limited size, duration, and degree of disturbance, such as preliminary exploration and removal of small mineral samples) and no extraordinary circumstances exist that might cause the action to have significant effects. Based on the PacifiCorp proposal and past experience, this action is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment (FSH 1909.15, section 26.2).

The area immediately south of the area covered by exploration license UTU-67727 is covered by PacifiCorp's exploration license UTU-66524 (see map, Attachment 1), where 5 drill holes were completed during the summer of 1990. One additional hole, which was not completed during 1990, is scheduled to be completed during the summer of 1991. The area south of the area covered by exploration license UTU-66524 was evaluated for drilling in the Environmental Assessment for Beaver Creek Coal Company, Trail Mountain Mine, 1988 Coal Exploration Drilling Project, Coal Exploration License U-64233. The drilling program was conducted during the summers of 1988 and 1989 with no resource damage.

The two sites are on the eastern side of the Wasatch Plateau on Trail Mountain, at elevations of 9,080 and 9,920 feet. The sites are located on exposures of the Price River and North Horn Formations, which consist of interbedded sandstones, claystones, and siltstones. The soils are sandy with some colluvium derived from the North Horn and Flagstaff Formations. A brief description of each site and the required access roads is in Attachment 2.

There are no known prime or unique farmlands, wetlands, timber lands, rangelands, or alluvial valley floors within the lease area. There will be no impacts to floodplains, cultural resources, or Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive floral or faunal species.

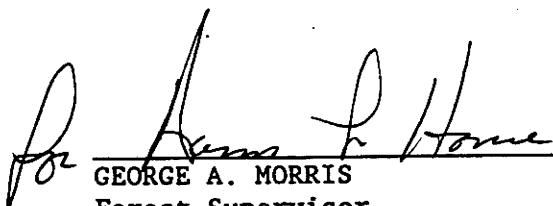
Scoping letters were mailed to 29 individuals and organizations (see Attachment 3). A notice was also placed in the Emery County Progress and Sun Advocate newspapers. Three comments were received during the scoping process. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources is concerned about impacts to deer and elk during fawning and calving periods and potential impacts to water resources. The Utah Division of Water Rights is concerned that the applicant obtains an approved water right for the drilling operation. The Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments supports the drilling as an effort to define and develop natural resources. All of these concerns have been addressed and are included in the special stipulations for drilling (Attachment 4). There are no unresolved comments.

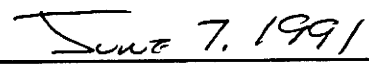
This project is consistent with the management directions, including standards and guidelines, in the Manti-La Sal National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (pages III-4, III-12, and III-34 through III-36). The management prescription of the sites is for forage production. Mineral activities are allowed with mitigation to assure continued livestock access and use.

This decision may be implemented on June 19, 1991.

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 217. A written notice of appeal of this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 217.9 "Content of Notice of Appeal," including the reasons for appeal, and two copies must be filed with Regional Forester, Gray Reynolds, 324 25th Street, Ogden, Utah 84401, within 45 days of the date that the Legal Notice is published in the Sun Advocate.

For further information contact the Forest Supervisor's Office in Price, Utah (801/637-2817) or the Ferron Ranger District Office in Ferron, Utah (801/384-2372).


GEORGE A. MORRIS
Forest Supervisor
599 West Price River Drive
Price, Utah 84501


Date

Attachment 1

Proposed Exploration License Area

Proposed Drill Sites

Expl. Lic. UTU-66524

Coal Exploration
License Area
Northern Trail Mountain
Emery County, Utah

PacifiCorp Electric Operations
Fuel Resources
Salt Lake City, UT 84126-0128

Scale: 1:100,000 Date: 9-17-90

TMTN-7

This drill site is located on an open area on the north side of Trail Canyon. The vegetation is primarily sagebrush and grasses. Approximately 200 yards of access road from the North Point Spring Road (FDR-52302) to the drill site will be required.

TMTN-8

This drill site is located on a narrow, open ridge top along the Trail Mountain Road (FDR 50034). The site is sparsely covered with hard grass. No access road will be required.

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Manti-LaSal National Forest
Ferron Ranger District

P.O. Box 310
Ferron, Utah 84523

Reply to: 2820

Date: January 28, 1991

m0ln

The Ferron Ranger District, Manti-LaSal National Forest, has received a coal drilling proposal which may interest you.

PacifiCorp Electric Operations has applied for a coal exploration license to drill 2 holes on the central portion of Trail Mountain. The holes would be located in sections 4 and 15, T17S, R6E (see attached map). Access will be up the Cottonwood Creek Road and out the Trail Mountain Road to the project area.

Exploration will be accomplished by surface drilling using a truck-mounted rotary drill rig. Drilling will be done during the summer of 1991. Minor amounts of aspen, sagebrush, and grass will be removed from the drill sites and access road.

Approximately 200 yards of temporary road will be needed for the project. When work is completed, PacifiCorp will reclaim all disturbed areas and all temporary roads, which will total less than 2 acres.

If you have questions or comments on this project please contact myself or Dale Harber by February 25, 1991.

Sincerely,

JOHN HEALY
Acting District Ranger

Enclosure

m01nSouthern Utah Wilderness Alliance
ATTN: Mr. Ken A. Rait
436 Alameda Avenue
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

m01nEmery County Commission
P.O. Box 629
Castle Dale, Utah 84513

m01nCity of Castle Dale
ATTN: Mr. Gary Cox, Mayor
P.O. Box 728
Castle Dale, Utah 84513

m01nCity of Ferron
ATTN: Mr. Dale Roper, Mayor
P.O. Box 820
Ferron, Utah 84523

m01nCity of Orangeville
P.O. Box 677
Orangeville, Utah 84537

m01nEmery County Economic Development
P.O. Box 297
Castle Dale, Utah 84513

m01nSoutheastern Utah Association of Local Governments
ATTN: Mr. Bill Howell
P.O. Box 1106
Price, Utah 84501

m01nBountiful City Light and Power
ATTN: Mr. Kevin Garlick
198 South 200 West
Bountiful, Utah 84010

m01nSouthern California Edison Company
ATTN: Jerry Wilson
P.O. Box 410
Long Beach, California 90801

m01nUtah Associated Municipal Water Systems (UAMPS)
ATTN: Craig V. Meacham
8722 South 300 West

Sandy, Utah 84070

m0lnTrail Mountain Livestock Association
ATTN: Mr. Carl Bott
P.O. Box 432
Castle Dale, Utah 84513

m0lnEast Mountain Cattle Association
K Cattle Company
ATTN: Mr. Lee Jeffs
P.O. Box 1028
Castle Dale, Utah 84513

m0lnSenator Orrin Hatch Office
ATTN: Mr. Ronald E. Madsen
3428 Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138

m0lnEast Carbon Wildlife Federation
ATTN: Shefton Gordon
331 Carson
Box 904
East Carbon, Utah 84520

m0lnEast Carbon Wildlife Federation
ATTN: Kent Hintze
P.O. Box 523
East Carbon, Utah 84520

m0lnEmery Water Conservancy District
ATTN: Oral Eugene Johansen
290 East Main Street
P.O. Box 856
Castle Dale, Utah 84513

m0lnMountain States Legal Foundation
ATTN: Matthew Y. Biscan
1200 Lincoln Street, #600
Denver, Colorado 80203

m0lnThe Nature Conservancy
ATTN: Joel S. Tuhy
2225 South Highway 89-91
Wellsville, Utah 84339

m01nUtah Wilderness Association
ATTN: Mr. Dick Carter
455 East 400 South, B-40
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

m01nDepartment of Natural Resources
ATTN: Milo A. Barney
1636 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

m01nUtah Bureau of Water Pollution Control
ATTN: Roy D. Gunnell
288 North 1460 West
P.O. Box 16690
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116-0690

m01nUtah Division of Wildlife Resources
ATTN: Ken Phippen
455 West Railroad Avenue
Price, Utah 84501

m01nUtah State Division of Water Rights
ATTN: Mark Page
P.O. Box 718
Price, Utah 84501

m01nMr. Scott M. Child
PacifiCorp Electric Operations
Fuel Resources Department
324 South State Street
P.O. Box 26128
Salt Lake City, Utah 84126-0128

m01nMaughan Guymon
P.O. Box 552
Huntington, Utah 84528

m01nLee McElprang
P.O. Box 448
Huntington, Utah 84528

m01nAvra M. Smith
Deseret News Correspondent
876 North 400 East
Price, Utah 84501

m0lnCoastal States Energy Company
175 East 400 South #800
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111-2301

m0lnMeridian Oil, Inc.
ATTN: Steve Reinert
5613 DTC Parkway
Englewood, Colorado 80111

Attachment 4
Forest Service Special Stipulations

1. A pre-work meeting including the responsible company representative(s), contractors, and the Forest Service must be conducted at the project location prior to commencement of operations. Site-specific Forest Service requirements will be discussed at this time.
2. A road-use permit must be obtained from the Forest Service before equipment is transported onto National Forest System lands.
3. All surface disturbing activities including reclamation must be supervised by a responsible representative of the permittee who is aware of the terms and conditions of the project permits. A copy of the appropriate permits must be available for review at the project site.
4. The Forest must be notified 48 hours in advance that heavy equipment will be moved onto National Forest System lands and that surface disturbing activities will commence.
5. Establishment of campsites and staging areas on National Forest System lands in support of this project is subject to Forest Service approval.
6. The Forest Service must be notified of any proposed alterations to the plan of operations. Any changes to the existing plan are subject to Forest Service review and concurrence.
7. Fire suppression equipment must be available to all personnel working at the project site. Equipment must include at least one hand tool per crew member consisting of shovels and pulaskis and one properly rated fire extinguisher per vehicle and/or internal combustion engine.
8. All gasoline, diesel, and steam-powered equipment must be equipped with effective spark arresters and mufflers. Spark arresters must meet Forest Service specifications discussed in the USDA Forest Service Spark Arrester Guide, June, 1981. In addition, all electrical equipment must be properly insulated to prevent sparks.
9. The permittee will be held responsible for damage and suppression cost for fires started as a result of operations. Fires must be reported to the Forest Service as soon as possible.
10. The Forest Service reserves the right to suspend operations during periods of high fire potential.
11. Water needed in support of operations must be properly and legally obtained according to state water laws. The location of diversion, if on National Forest System lands, is subject to Forest Service review and approval.
12. Unauthorized off-road vehicular travel is prohibited.

13. The operator will be held liable for control of noxious weed infestations found to be a result of this drilling operation.
14. Section corners or other survey markers, including claim corners, in the project area must be located and flagged for preservation prior to commencement of surface disturbing activities. The removal, displacement, or disturbance of markers must be approved by the proper authority.
15. If cultural or paleontological resources are discovered during operations, all operations which may result in disturbance to the resources must cease and the Forest Service must be notified of the discovery.
16. All aquifers encountered during drilling will be documented as to depth and flow quantity estimates; this information shall be supplied to the Forest Service within 30 days of completion of the project.
17. Gates must be closed after entry unless otherwise notified.
18. The permittee will be held responsible for all damages to fences, cattleguards, resource improvements, roads, and other structures on National Forest System lands which result from operations. The Forest Service must be notified of damages as soon as possible.
19. All trees and brush must be cleared as the first step for new access and site construction. Topsoil must be stripped and stockpiled at a location where loss and contamination is minimized.
20. Disturbed areas must be reclaimed by the end of the field season. Exceptions require Forest Service approval.
21. Contaminated soil and gravel must be stripped and placed in the mud pit prior to site reclamation.
22. Mud pits must be allowed to dry before they are backfilled and reclaimed. They must be enclosed by a 4-strand barbed wire fence while they are left to dry.
23. When dry, mud pits must be reclaimed by selectively backfilling excavated materials, topsoil last, such that the disturbed area is replaced to approximate original contour. The disturbed area must be seeded with the following seed mix after the topsoil is replaced:

Species	pounds/acre
Intermediate Wheatgrass - <i>Agropyron intermedium</i>	3
Slender Wheatgrass - <i>Agropyron trachycaulum</i>	3
Crested Wheatgrass - <i>Agropyron cristatum</i> (Ephraim)	3
Smooth Brome - <i>Bromus inermis</i>	3
Yellow Sweet Clover - <i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	1
Ladak Alfalfa - <i>Medicago sativa ladak</i>	1
Small Burnett - <i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	1

This seed mixture must be 99 percent pure live seed and applied at the rate of 15 pounds per acre.

Reclamation will be considered successful when the ground cover is 90% of that of the surrounding area. There must be no more than 10% weeds and not noxious weeds.

24. Roads to be obliterated must be reclaimed by ripping the surface, replacing the disturbed area to the approximate original contour, replacing stockpiled topsoil, and seeding with the specified seed mix. Seeding must take place when topsoil is replaced. Water diversions structures, if needed, must be constructed as specified by the Forest Service.
25. All disturbed drainages must be replaced to their approximate original configuration when the project area is reclaimed.
26. The operator must clean up and remove all drilling equipment, trash, garbage, flagging, vehicles, and other such materials from National Forest System lands.
27. All trash, garbage, and other refuse must be properly contained on the project site prior to disposal.
28. All drill holes must be plugged in accordance with Federal and State regulations.
29. Operations must be coordinated with grazing permittees to prevent conflicts.
30. Harassment of wildlife and livestock is prohibited. All vehicles will remain on the roads, and travel only as necessary, to prevent disturbance of deer and elk fawning and calving.
31. All drilling fluids, muds, cuttings and water produced must be contained on site in mud pits or portable containers. Fluids must not be allowed to flow out over the ground or into drainages. The pits must not be used for disposal of garbage, trash, or other refuse.
32. Any trees to be removed larger than 8 inch diameter must be cut and not pushed over. The timber must be skidded or hauled before road construction begins to a point designated by the Forest Service. Trees longer than 33 feet must be cut into smaller sections before skidding.
33. Outside berms will not be constructed on any roads.
34. The temporary road shall be constructed as clearly marked in the field and on flagline approved by the Forest Service. Field-design methods shall be used.
35. The road shall be constructed to a 12 foot top width.

36. Vegetation shall not be cleared for more than the width necessary to serve traffic needs. Care shall be used to avoid unnecessary damage to vegetation by cutting all trees necessary for clearing prior to dozing or blading.
37. Road maintenance shall be sufficient to insure minimization of the erosion for the life of the road. The temporary road shall not be used if conditions are such that usage may cause severe wheel rutting or degradation of water quality.
38. The newly constructed temporary road will be closed at the conclusion of drilling related activities by recontouring to approximate original contour, spreading the stockpiled topsoil, reseeding, and spreading the vegetation removed during construction over the disturbed area. Cross-drains, dikes, and waterbars shall be constructed to control erosion. Waterbar spacing shall be as listed below:
- | | |
|------------------|----------|
| 2 percent slope | 157 feet |
| 4 percent slope | 142 feet |
| 6 percent slope | 134 feet |
| 8 percent slope | 127 feet |
| 10 percent slope | 118 feet |
| 12 percent slope | 108 feet |
39. A snow fence will be placed along the west edge of the disturbed area for TMTN-8 to trap snow on the site and enhance revegetation.
40. Stipulations for Lands of the National Forest System Under Jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture.

The licensee/permittee/lessee must comply with all the rules and regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture set forth at Title 36, Chapter II, of the Code of Federal Regulations governing the use and management of the National Forest System (NFS) when not inconsistent with the rights and regulations must be complied with for (1) all use and occupancy of the NFS prior to approval of a permit/operation plan by the Secretary of the Interior, (2) uses of all existing improvements, such as Forest Development Roads, within and outside the area licensed, permitted or leased by the Secretary of the Interior, and (3) use and occupancy of the NFS not authorized by a permit/operating plan approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

All matters related to this stipulation are to be addressed

to Forest Supervisor

at Manti-La Sal National Forest
599 West Price River Drive
Price, Utah 84501
Telephone No. 801-637-2817

who is the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture.

Stipulations to be Included in the Road Use Permit

41. Roads must not be used when they are wet and susceptible to damage.
42. The permittee is responsible for repair of any damages to roads which are caused by his operations.
43. All traffic must maintain safe speeds commensurate with existing conditions.
44. Roads must be watered if dust becomes a problem or if excessive loss of road material occurs.
45. Heavy equipment may not be moved on Forest Development Roads on the following dates: July 3-7, July 23-25, August 31-September 2, and October 1-6, 11-15, and 18-20, 1991. If the project continues into 1992, restricted dates will be determined at that time.